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# THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Vol. VI, No. 7

July, 1946

Washington, D. C.

## Apprentice Saves Lineman's Life

### Campus Highline To Be Used In Oklahoma Short Course

Oklahoma A & M College will hold its second annual safety and job training short course in July. There will be two foremanship training sessions, July 15-19 and July 22-26. This course will be for foremen only and will cover job planning, job training and job supervision.

The third period, August 5 to 9, will be devoted to field and class instruction in live circuit operations and live line maintenance (using hot-line tools). A section of line will be erected on the college campus so that each man can actually perform the jobs which will be taught.

This conference is under the direction of Glenn Smith, Head of Oklahoma A and M Trade and Industrial Education. W. Fred Heisler, Training Consultant, and Joe Billingsley, Safety Supervisor, will conduct the three sessions.

### They Learned About Meters In Nebraska

A metermen's training school sponsored by the Safety and Job Training Division of the Nebraska Rural Public Power Districts and the Trade and Industrial Division of the State Department of Vocational Education, was held in Lincoln, Neb., June 17, 1946. The school was under the direction of Howard Gorham, State supervisor of Trade and Industrial Education, assisted by Lester Trussell, Chairman of the REA Safety and Job Training Advisory Committee, and W. H. Abel, Safety and Job Training Instructor.

### Artificial Respiration Successful After Ohio Accident

#### The Situation

A one-kva transformer had been installed in a substation to provide facilities to check voltage. It was located on a concrete platform about three feet high and connected to the line through a cut-out mounted on a buss arm directly above. The cut-out was located on the back side of the buss arm. A piece of tape hung down from the cut-out. The substation gate was so placed that anyone entering the substation approached this transformer from the front, and walked around to the rear to see the cut-out. The piece of tape which hung down gave the cut-out the appearance of being open when viewed from the front of the transformer. The cut-out was closed. It had the appearance of being open.

#### The Accident

A lineman with 23 years' experience and an apprentice lineman with three months' experience were sent out to remove this 1 kva transformer. It was apparent to the lineman as he entered the gate that the cut-out was open. The apprentice inquired as to the tools he should get and asked if he should bring in rubber gloves. The lineman replied that he would not need rubber gloves because the cut-out was open, to bring only a pair of pliers. The lineman walked up to the cement platform in front of the transformer, reached up and touched the riser wire between the transformer bushing and the cut-out. He contacted 7200 volts but did not fall immediately. The apprentice lineman standing behind him had an impulse to grab the lineman and pull him away. Something

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Published Monthly in the Interest of Safety  
for Employees of REA Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

## - EDITORIAL COLUMN -

### Let's Be Diplomatic

James A. Martin, Chairman, Organization and Procedure Conference, U. S. Department of Agriculture, recently wrote a list of suggestions designed to help government workers in their relations with the public. We are reprinting this list for our readers. We hope that Mr. Martin's rules for diplomacy will be helpful to employees of REA-financed systems.

#### DIPLOMACY

1. Be tactful at all times; be courteous in your manner, speech, and actions.
2. Avoid being blunt to the point where you are offensive; think before you speak.
3. Use a moderate and even tone in expressing yourself; do not get emotional and permit your voice to betray your feelings.
4. Be reserved but not impersonal; do not be familiar to the extent that your actions and remarks are resented.
5. Observe the reactions of those to whom you are speaking; adjust your presentation to overcome obstacles rather than to place them in your path.

Your success will depend to a large extent upon how well you apply this advice. Be ever mindful of it and practice will instill habits most desirable and helpful.

#### Prescription

Read this every morning; apply it every day.

# Apprentice Saves Lineman's Life

(continued from page 1)

stopped him, however, and he did not do so. The lineman soon slumped to the ground and the apprentice pulled him aside and started artificial respiration. Within five minutes breathing was restored and the man was removed to a doctor's office.

The electrical burns were on the little finger of the right hand. The ring finger and thumb had flash burns. Severe burns were found on the right hip where it contacted the concrete platform. There were blisters on both feet.

#### The Editor's Comment

Ordinarily "The Lineman" does not mention names and places in accident accounts. However, we feel that the apprentice lineman who completed this resuscitation should be identified. His name is Lincoln F. Pitzer. He is employed by the Inter-County Rural Electric Cooperative at Hillsboro, Ohio. He is 25 years of age. Here is his war record, which may be of interest. He was inducted into the army October 20, 1943, and assigned to Company F of the 33rd Armoured Regiment, 3rd Armoured Division. After receiving his training, Staff Sgt. Pitzer was sent to the European War Theatre and took part in battles and campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe, Rhineland, and Ardennes. Sergeant Pitzer's tank was the second tank to enter Germany. During this time he was lost for seven days from his regiment and received wounds in action the third of January, 1945, in Belgium. He also received the following decorations and citations: Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Purple Heart Medal with five clusters. He was discharged January 9, 1946.

"The REA Lineman" has advocated teaching the fundamentals of artificial respiration to the new man the first day he reports to work. Lincoln F. Pitzer demonstrated that the new employee should be able to perform this type of first aid early in his job with the cooperative.

Lineman Pitzer has been recommended to receive the President's Medal, official award of the Nat'l Safety Council for saving a life with artificial respiration.

Teach the new man now--it may save a life--yes, even yours.

# *Sixteen Accidents -- Some Serious, All Painful*

## **DON'T LET THEM HAPPEN TO YOU**

A lineman was tying in wire on an A3 Assembly. After tying in the phase wire he lowered his position to tie in the neutral. He placed his safety around the pole and snapped it in the D ring. He then leaned back in his belt and fell to the ground. The snap on the right side had twisted in such a manner as to come unsnapped. Injury - broken right arm and broken rib.

A lineman was trimming trees for line clearance. While climbing the tree, he slipped and fell to ground. Injury - cut on head and possible concussion.

A lineman was climbing a tree with climbers. As he started up the trunk he slipped and gaffed himself. Injury - puncture wound.

A line crew was moving poles to make way for a new road. A lineman went up a pole to remove cable hooks. While working on pole his hooks cut out. He "burned" the pole. Injury - strained tendons in knee.

A line truck was parked in a warehouse. A frame section projected beyond end of truck. An employee walked into protruding parts striking forehead. Injury - small cut.

Men were clearing right-of-way. One man was cutting small limbs from tree with an axe. The axe glanced and struck a fellow workman on the leg. Injury - 2" gash.

A group of linemen was hanging a transformer. One man had climbed the pole and two men, at the base of the pole, were getting the transformer ready to be hoisted. The lineman who had climbed the pole, in safetying-off, dislodged a crescent wrench from his belt. It fell approximately 30 feet, struck one man on the head and glanced off striking the other man on the head. Injury - first man, one-inch gash and sev-

ered artery on head; second man, large bruise and severe pain.

A lineman was cutting a limb from a tree with an axe. The axe struck another limb causing him to lose balance and strike foot with the axe. Injury - cut on big toe of left foot.

A co-op truck collided with another truck. Injury to driver - two broken ribs and cut on ear, face scratched and bruised arm, cut on forehead, scratch on leg.

A groundman was trimming a tree. The limb on which he was standing broke and he fell to the ground. Injury - wrenched left knee.

A man fell down a bank and landed on some hedge stumps. Injury - a broken rib.

An employee went to the rear of a truck to close a gate. The truck backed into him. Injury - broken elbow and injured back.

A lineman was riding in a truck. The truck crossed a culvert which caved in. This caused the truck to lurch and throw the employee into the cross bar on the rear of the truck. Injury - two broken ribs.

A groundman was slacking off wire at the butt of a pole with a coffering hoist. The handle of the hoist struck him on the leg. Injury - bruised calf of right leg.

A lineman was trimming a tree. One gaff cut out. In regaining his balance he wrenched the other leg. Injury - torn ligaments in right leg.

An employee was doing pipe work outside a building. He slipped in the mud and struck his head against a steel window which was open. Injury - cut on left side of head.

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## **National Farm Safety Week Begins July 21**

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# NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK, 1946

By the President of the United States of America

## A Proclamation

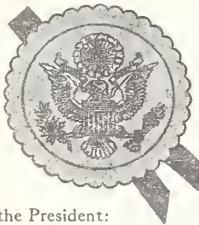
WHEREAS an increased supply of food is vitally needed to promote peace and happiness in the postwar world; and

WHEREAS farm accidents rob the nation of thousands of lives and millions of dollars worth of food and other property each year; and

WHEREAS experience in previous observances of National Farm Safety Week has clearly shown the necessity and benefits of a coordinated and constant educational farm safety program:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY S. TRUMAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby call upon the Nation to observe the week commencing July 21, 1946, as National Farm Safety Week. And I request all persons and organizations concerned with agriculture and farm life to do everything in their power to discover and publish the facts about farm accidents, and to develop practical safety programs which farm people everywhere can translate into direct action against hazards which daily threaten their lives and happiness. As a start, I specifically suggest that the farm people of the country observe National Farm Safety Week by resolving to eliminate at least one hazard a day until their farms are as safe as they can possibly make them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.



By the President:

*Dean Robinson*  
Acting Secretary of State

DONE at the City of Washington this twenty-seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and seventieth.

*Harry Truman*

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## EDITOR FLEMING PRESENTS MEDAL

D. A. Fleming, Editor of The Lineman, spoke on "Rural Electrical Hazards and Safe Practices" before the afternoon session of the Utilities' Section of the Twelfth Annual Virginia State-Wide Safety Conference in Richmond, Va. late in May. Mr. Fleming also made the presentation of the National Safety Council's President's Medal to Line Foreman D. M. Flippo of the Virginia Electric Cooperative, Bowling Green, for successfully resuscitating a member of his line crew by using artificial respiration.

Mr. Fleming, recently attended the Executive Committee Meeting of the Utilities Section, National Safety Council, in Altoona, Pennsylvania. This Committee outlined a suggested plan for procedure and a number of activities for consideration. The rough draft of the first of a proposed series of training articles was discussed.

## - LETTERS TO THE LINEMAN -

### We Owe It To Our Families

Do you wear rubber gloves, and I do mean you?

I feel my most worthy contribution to accident prevention was accomplished last month by securing from every man on Safety and Job Training a promise that he would wear his rubber gloves from the ground up on every pole carrying energized wires.

I am proud of this decision. It comes from as fine a bunch of linemen as can be found.

Don't you think we are having too many accidents involving burns? Then protect with rubber gloves the portion of body electricity so often enters.

I hope every man who reads the decision

will pledge his support and have a better chance of not being the next one to leave us. Remove the cause of accidents "That Men May Live." Do you owe this to your family? The individual must decide -- what will your answer be?

-- V. H. Barfield  
Georgia REA Safety Supervisor

